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peripheral surfaces of said drive ring to extend in a direction inclined with respect to both said optical axis and the direction in which said rib-shaped extending guide projection extends; and

a lead groove formed on one of inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said second movable ring;

wherein said second rib-shaped extending guide projection is engaged in said lead groove, whereby said second movable ring moves in said optical axis direction relative to said drive ring when said drive ring is rotated about said optical axis relative to said stationary barrel.

25. (Currently Amended) A lens barrel comprising:

a stationary barrel;

a drive ring which is supported by said stationary barrel to move in a direction of the optical axis of a lens of said lens barrel, while rotating about said optical axis relative to said stationary barrel when rotated; and

a first movable ring which supports a first lens group and is guided along said optical axis, said first movable ring being supported by said drive ring so that said drive ring is rotatable about said optical axis relative to said first movable ring and integrally movable with said first movable ring in said optical axis direction;

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wherein said drive ring and said first movable ring move together in said optical axis direction while rotating about said optical axis relative to each other when said drive ring is rotated about said optical axis;

said first movable ring comprising:

a linear moving ring which is guided in said optical axis direction without rotating about said optical axis, said linear moving ring being supported by said drive ring so as to be relatively rotatable with respect to said drive ring about said optical axis, and to be integrally movable with said drive ring in said optical axis direction; and

a lens support ring which supports said first lens group, and is positioned in said linear moving ring to be supported thereby so that said lens support ring can be moved in the optical axis direction with respect to said linear moving ring while rotating about said optical axis relative to said linear moving ring;

wherein when said linear moving ring is moved forward and rearward in the optical axis direction, said lens support ring integrally moves forward and rearward together with said linear moving ring in said optical axis direction; and

wherein when said lens support ^{ring} is individually rotated, said lens support ring moves forward and rearward in said optical axis direction relative to said linear moving ring.

26. (Canceled)